

KETTERING  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S


ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR 1896.

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# MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

## FOR 1896.

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*To the Kettering Urban District Council.*

Introductory.

GENTLEMEN,  
In presenting to you my Twenty-Fourth Annual Report, I am pleased to be able to say that the health of the district has been fairly satisfactory during the past year; and that although the general death rate has been slightly higher, and the zymotic death rate considerably higher, than those of last year, there has been no serious outbreak of "preventible" disease.

Population.

The population of Kettering at the present time certainly exceeds 25,000, and my statistics for the past year are based on the assumption that in the middle of the year it had arrived at that number.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
The number of Births in 1896 was	440	421	861
The number of Deaths was ...	192	164	356
This gives a Birth Rate of ...	34.4 in the 1000.		
And a Death Rate of ..	14.2 in the 1000.		
The Zymotic Death Rate was ..	2.3 in the 1000.		

During the last ten years these rates have been as follows:—

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.
1887	38	15	.6
1888	36	16	.9
1889	36	12	.3
1890	34	17.8	4.8
1891	38.1	14.6	.3
1892	38.3	16.1	.6
1893	31.3	15	1.09
1894	34.7	14.9	2.4
1895	36.5	13.5	.7
1896	34.4	14.2	2.3
The mean rates for the decade are	35.9	13.4	1.3

During the ten years completed by 1896 the number of deaths from the following diseases have been as follows :—

Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Measles.
2	25	9	57	137

Here follow the statistics of illness and death required by the Local Government Board, to which I add a list of the causes of all the deaths during 1896 :—

TABLE OF DEATHS

During the Year 1896, in the Kettering Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities,

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
Kettering Urban.....	329	127	63	10	18	57	54
Kettering Union.....	22	3				7	12
Infectious Diseases Hospital.....	5		3	1	1		
Totals .....	356	130	66	11	19	64	66

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics, public institutions being shewn as separate localities.		Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
Kettering Urban ..	Under 5	2	1	1			27	9	4	1	33	2		4	104	188
	5 upwds	1		2	3	1	1	1		22	18	16	3	9	64	141
Kettering Union ..	Under 5														2	2
	5 upwds			1						5	2	1		1	10	20
Infectious Diseases Hospital	Under 5	3														3
	5 upwds			2												2
Totals .....	Under 5	5	1	1			27	9	4	1	33	2		4	106	193
	5 upwds	1		5	3	1	1	1		27	20	17	3	10	74	163



TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES  
OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1896,  
in the Kettering Urban District, classified according to  
Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics, Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	New cases of sickness in each locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.						Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.		
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.		Age under 5 or over 5.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.	Erysipelas.	Scarlatina.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Measles.
Kettering Urban	19,453	25,000	861	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds	24 ..... 69	2 ..... 1	3 ..... 20	..... 4	3 ..... 24	17 ..... 37	..... 11	..... 1
Total ...	19,453	25,000	861	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds	24 ..... 69	2 ..... 1	3 ..... 20	..... 4	3 ..... 24	17 ..... 37	..... 11	..... 1

Hydrocephalus	...	...	1	Pernicious Anæmia	..	...	2
Meningitis	...	...	6	Purpura	...	...	2
Apoplexy	...	...	8	Scarlatina	...	...	6
Softening of Brain	...	...	2	Diphtheria	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	.	16	Measles...	...	...	28
Epilepsy	...	...	1	Typhoid Fever...	.	...	6
Laryngitis	...	...	2	Whooping Cough	...	...	10
Bronchitis	...	...	36	Diarrhœa	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	17	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Phthisis...	...	...	28	Peurperal Fever	...	...	3
Heart Diseases	...	...	19	Pyæmia	...	...	1
Aneurism	...	...	2	Influenza	...	...	3
Liver Diseases...	...	...	7	Premature Birth	...	...	26
Kidney Diseases	...	...	2	Congenital Debility	...	...	18
Gastritis	...	...	1	Atrophy	...	...	29
Enteritis	...	...	5	Dentition	...	...	1
Peritonitis	...	...	2	Child Birth	...	...	2
Obstruction of Bowels	...	...	2	Injuries	...	...	14
Spinal Disease ...	...	...	1	Senile Debility...	...	...	18
Abscess	...	...	3	Natural Causes	...	...	1
Tumor ...	...	...	2				—
Cancer ...	...	...	14				
Hip-joint Disease	...	...	2	Total	...	...	356
Locomotor Ataxy	...	...	1				—

An examination of these tables will show that the birth rate is slightly below the average, and the death rate slightly above, while the zymotic death rate is high, owing to the prevalence of Measles and Whooping Cough ; but that the mean death rate for the decade is very low for a factory town.

Phthisis.

The number of deaths from Phthisis is the same as last year. I am not aware that this disease has been fostered by any defects in the ventilation, or overcrowding, of any of the Factories or Public Buildings.

Pneumonia  
and  
Bronchitis.

The deaths from Pneumonia and Bronchitis number about the same as usual. Several cases of very severe "chill" affecting the internal organs, have been caused by the occupancy of new houses before they have been thoroughly aired and dried.

Infant  
Mortality.

The Infant Mortality is lamentably high, the number of infants who have died before reaching the end of their first year being at the rate of 149·5 in every 1000 births. No doubt many of these infants still die from injudicious feeding, notwithstanding all that has been said and taught by the doctors who have attended them. It seems to be impossible to convince many mothers that children under 3 or 4 months are quite unable to digest farinaceous food, and that it is of the utmost importance to keep the bottles used for feeding them absolutely clean. The comparatively modern habit of allowing children to be always sucking at a dirty "teat" between their meals, must have an injurious effect on their health. It is not a very uncommon thing in this town for an infants' night food to be prepared before the mother goes to bed, and kept warm in the bottle by contact with the bodies of the parents. By such means children get gradually out of health, and when acute disease attacks them they succumb very quickly to its effects.

Influenza.

Influenza has been again prevalent during the latter months of the year, but only fatal in three cases. The cases this year have varied considerably from those in previous outbreaks, the symptoms in some cases beginning with sore throats, and in others with sickness and diarrhœa.

Small Pox.

No case of Small Pox has occurred, although during the Gloucester epidemic cases were reported as being near, and a very sharp look-out was kept by your officers for several weeks.

Scarlatina.

Scarlatina has been prevalent throughout the year. The Hospital has been used almost continuously, and great care has been taken to keep those suffering from this disease long enough in Hospital, to prevent any chance of their infecting others after returning to their homes.

I attribute the constant presence of this disease more to the light cases than to the more severe ones, and I fear that many cases have occurred without medical aid being secured.

It does not yet seem to be generally known that it is the duty of parents to notify the occurrence of all cases of this illness to the Medical Officer of Health, unless notified by the doctor in attendance. Ninety-three cases of Scarlatina were notified, and six deaths occurred. The cases were notified as follows :—

January	...	6	May	...	12	September	...	4
February	...	11	June	...	9	October	...	7
March	...	8	July	...	7	November	...	5
April	...	7	August	...	11	December	...	6
								—
Total								93

In houses where the disease was treated without removal to Hospital, the rooms have been carefully disinfected under the superintendence of the Inspector, and the disinfecting apparatus at the Hospital has been used for articles likely to cause infection.

phtheria. Three cases of Diphtheria occurred, one of which proved fatal. Edmund Street, Lower Street, and Hawthorn Road were the residences of those affected. Every precaution was taken to prevent infection, and there was no spreading of the disease.

phoid  
ever. Twenty-three cases of Typhoid Fever were notified, six were fatal. Eleven were removed to the Hospital, two of these were fatal. The notifications occurred as follows :—

January	...	4	April	..	4	August	...	1
February	...	5	May	.	2	September	...	2
March	..	2	July	.	2	October	...	1
								—
Total								23

The following were the localities of the residences of those attacked in the order named: Nelson Street, Edmund Street, Leicester Street, Havelock Street, Tan Yard, Field Street, Spital Square, Union Street, Channing Street, Queen Street, King Street, William Street, George Street, Regent Street, Carey Street, Oxford Street, Alexandra Street, and one fatal case occurred in the Union Workhouse. This was a very obscure case, but was verified by a *post mortem* examination. Thus, out of 23 cases, there were 18 different localities, spread over nine months of the year.



It was impossible to trace the causes of every one of these cases. Some were caused by drinking impure water, and some apparently by defects in drainage; obviously, no common cause for any number of them. The drinking water was tested in every case. The private drains as well as the public sewers were thoroughly and repeatedly flushed, and disinfectants freely distributed and used.

Your officers have again been assisted by the doctors attending doubtful cases of Typhoid Fever, who have kindly informed them of suspicious cases, before they felt justified in notifying them, and thus much valuable time has been gained in taking the necessary precautions.

Diarrhœa and  
Cholera.

No outbreak of Diarrhœa worthy of record has taken place during the year. Only four cases ended fatally, all of which were under 5 years of age. No case of Cholera occurred.

Measles.

Although Measles was prevalent in the district from March until June, it could hardly be said to be epidemic; 28 deaths were caused by this disease and its complications. One case was removed to the Hospital, and recovered.

It seems to be imperfectly understood that Measles is a most dangerous disease if those suffering from it are exposed to cold or varying temperature, and that in some epidemics, even with the greatest care, it is often rapidly fatal, and that it is highly infectious in its earliest stages. Notification of Measles has been adopted by a few authorities, but I do not feel justified in recommending that course to be taken in Kettering, because I consider that the advantages derived from it would not at all be in proportion to the great cost.

During December there were many cases of Rotheln or "German Measles," both amongst adults and children.

Notification  
of  
Infectious  
Diseases.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases has again proved very useful, and without doubt been the means of greatly preventing the spread of the diseases which are notified under the regulations of the Council. The number of cases has been as follows:—

Scarlatina	...	93	Typhoid Fever	23
Diphtheria	...	3	Puerperal Fever	4
Erysipelas	...	23		—
			Total	... 146

During the past year, with the consent of the Council, I have communicated to the Local Government Board every week the number of cases of infectious disease notified to me, and have in return received from that Board the number of notifications received from other places. This record has proved interesting and useful. Your officers have by this means been kept informed of the presence of such diseases when in their neighbourhood, or in places in constant communication with Kettering.



I have also been kindly informed by some Medical Officers of Health when they have suspected the removal of persons from infected houses in their districts to this place. This appears to me to be a most useful practice, and one that might be carried out more fully with great advantage, and especially so in the case of sea-side places and health resorts.

Hospital for  
Infectious  
Diseases.

The Hospital for Infectious Diseases has been in use nearly the whole year. No cases were admitted for a few weeks owing to the near approach of Small Pox during the time of the Gloucester epidemic. We were fortunate enough to escape without a single case, and as the epidemic began to decline, the Hospital was again freely used for Scarlet Fever.

Sixteen patients remained in the Hospital at the end of 1895 all of whom recovered. The number of patients admitted during 1896 was 66—Scarlet Fever 54 cases, Typhoid Fever 11 cases, Measles 1 case. Of these 66 cases, 56 returned to their homes cured, and 5 died; 3 of the deaths were due to Scarlet Fever, and 2 to Typhoid. Five cases remained in the Hospital at the end of the year 1896.

Fifty-one of the Scarlet Fever cases were from Kettering, 1 from Burton Latimer, 1 from Warkton, and 1 from Grafton Underwood. All the Typhoid cases, except 1 from Burton Latimer, were from Kettering. It may be remembered that although 66, exactly the same number of cases, were admitted in 1895, there was not a single death. We have not been quite so fortunate this year, but considering the very severe nature of the fatal cases when admitted, we have every reason to be satisfied.

The new building erected by the Rural Council is nearly completed, and will be of great assistance. We shall have an additional 12 beds to our present 20, in a completely detached Hospital, so that those suffering from different infectious diseases can be widely separated from each other when thought desirable.

The death of Mrs. Cowley, the late matron, caused some inconvenience for a time, but every one of the staff willingly did their best to fill the gap, until new arrangements could be made.

It was decided by the Council to appoint a Nurse-Matron as Superintendent, and Miss Lanyon was appointed, who has proved herself a most kind and skilful Nurse, and her large previous experience has been of great service.

Water  
Supply.

The Water Supply has been excellent throughout the year, both as to quality and quantity; there has never been less than a year's supply in the Reservoir at any time.

## Sewage.

The Sewage has been treated at the Sewage Works similarly to last year; up to November, Permanganate of Soda was used; at the present time, Proto Sulphate of Iron and Lime. The effluent has frequently been tested, with certainly the best results under the difficult circumstances.

The sanction of the Local Government Board has now been obtained for a large extension of the Sewage Disposal Works, where there will be precipitation in tanks, with subsequent filtration of the effluent through Coke Filters on Dibdin's principle. Thirty acres of land have been purchased. It is hoped that our troubles in this matter will soon cease.

## Sewers.

The Dual System of Drainage has been extended, and made almost general, and this system has always been carried out in the drainage of new streets. Before the system is complete all sewers will be "disconnected" from the outfall, and it is hoped by this means diffusion of gases through the manholes and other openings will cease. The flushing chambers, with which the sewers are supplied, have been regularly used all through the year.

Lodging  
Houses.

The only licensed Lodging House has been frequently inspected, and always found in good condition, without overcrowding. No infectious disease has been present in it, to our knowledge, during the year.

Dairies and  
Bakehouses.

The Dairies and Bakehouses have on the whole been well kept, although two or three of them have required some watching. No illness has been traced to milk supplies.

Slaughter  
Houses.

The Slaughter Houses, too, have been well kept, although some of them are in unsuitable places. One new license has been granted, but only for one year. I must repeat what I have for several years mentioned, that no greater improvement could be made than the erection of a public abattoir, which, with the gradual closing of the smaller and most unsuitable slaughter houses which would follow, would be of signal service to the causes of humanity, cleanliness, and the supply of wholesome food.

Houses unfit  
for  
Habitation.

Three houses have been closed by order of the Council, as being unfit for human habitation.

## Factories.

The Factories have been visited and inspected from time to time. The actual number of cubic feet allowed to the workers, decided upon early in the year, has simplified the work of your officers.

District  
Nurses.

The work done by the District Nurses in those cases of infectious disease not removed to the Hospital, has been of great value.

vaccination.

The compulsory clauses of the Vaccination Acts are still in abeyance here.

Meat, Fish,  
and Fruit.

A good look-out has been kept, especially on market days, on meat, fruit, and fish offered for sale, and no serious infringement of the Act has come before our notice.

Every portion of the district has been inspected during the year, although it has not been necessary to make any actual house to house visitation. I have again been greatly assisted by the Surveyor and Inspector; without their valuable aid the greatly-increasing work which is constantly called for, could not have been so satisfactorily performed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**J. WINTER DRYLAND,**

Medical Officer of Health.

KETTERING,

JANUARY, 1897.



R E P O R T

OF THE

Inspector of Nuisances for 1896.

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*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Kettering  
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the following details of Sanitary Work carried out during the past year:—

- 107 Special House Inspections were made.
- 10 Waste and Rain-water Pipes were cut off from drains.
- 33 Defective Sink-pipes, with their surroundings, were repaired.
- 52 Blocked Drains, affecting 150 houses, were cleared.
- 46 New Drain-traps were fixed.
- 47 Drain-traps were repaired or reset.
- 17 Drains were re-laid, and 10 Tippers were put in order.
- 5 Inspection Chambers were constructed, and 10 were repaired.
- 41 Badly-paved Yards were newly paved or repaired.
- 37 Old Water Closets were cleansed and repaired; in these 29  
New Pans and 21 New Traps were fixed.
- 13 Flushing Cisterns were repaired or replaced by new ones.
- 4 New Water Closets were constructed, and water laid on to  
5 others.
- 5 Vaults and 4 Cesspools were abolished.
- 2 Nuisances caused by overcrowding were abated.
- 29 Offensive accumulations were removed.
- 13 Pig and Fowl nuisances were abated.
- 50 Rooms. Bedding, &c., were fumigated.
- 7 Ventilating Pipes were tested; 2 of these were repaired.
- 5 New Ventilating Pipes were introduced on private property,  
and 10 were erected in connection with the sewers.
- 3 Intercepting Traps were removed from the bottom of soil-  
pipes.

Ninety-nine samples of Water were taken for testing, resulting in 62 houses being supplied with the Company's Water, and one new Well being dug.

Forty-four Flushings from main have been carried out on premises where Typhoid Fever has existed.

The Sanitary Conveniences in five Factories or Workshops were improved. Two cases of over-crowding in Workshops were dealt with, and four other nuisances were abated.

Twenty-three persons were prosecuted for using obscene language in the public streets, 7 for causing obstructions in the streets, and 4 for other offences.

Only eight statutory notices were served for abatement of nuisances in these cases. No legal proceedings were necessary.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

**JOHN BARRITT,**

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.







